

# MASSACHUSETTS FIRES IN 2003

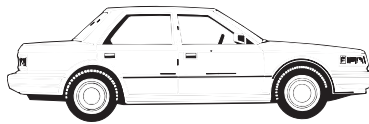
## 27,715 Fires - Up 1% From 2002

61 Civilian Deaths  
418 Civilian Injuries  
1 Fire Service Death  
514 Fire Service Injuries  
\$181 Million in Property Damage  
1,456 Reported Arsons



### Structure Fires

12,997 Fires - Up 8%  
52 Civilian Deaths  
359 Civilian Injuries  
1 Fire Service Death  
458 Fire Service Injuries  
\$156 Million in Property Damage  
382 Arsons Reported



### Motor Vehicle Fires

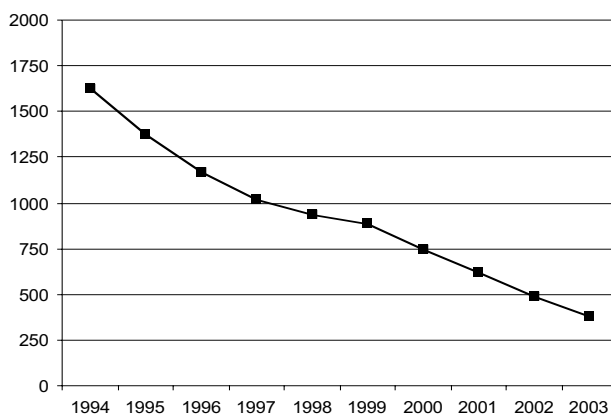
4,522 Fires - Up 4%  
5 Civilian Deaths  
25 Civilian Injuries  
29 Fire Service Injuries  
\$22 Million in Property Damage  
276 Arsons Reported



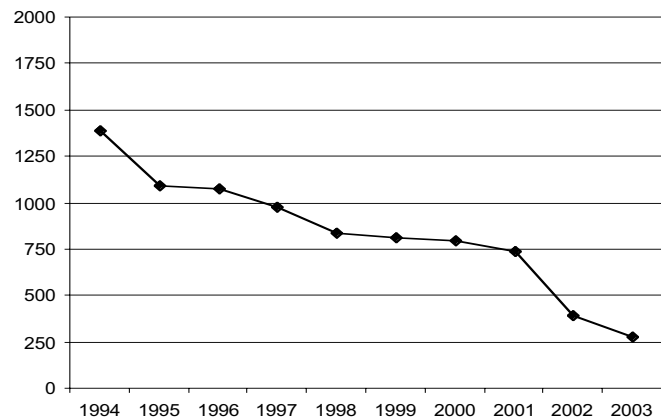
### Other Fires

10,196 Fires - Down 8%  
4 Civilian Deaths  
34 Civilian Injuries  
27 Fire Service Injuries  
\$3 Million in Property Damage  
798 Arsons Reported

### Structure Arson by Year



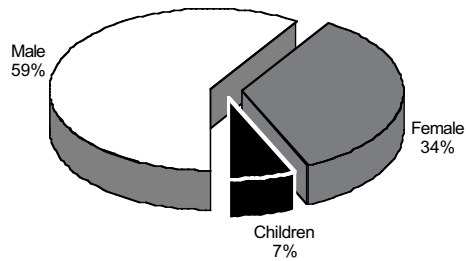
### Motor Vehicle Arson by Year



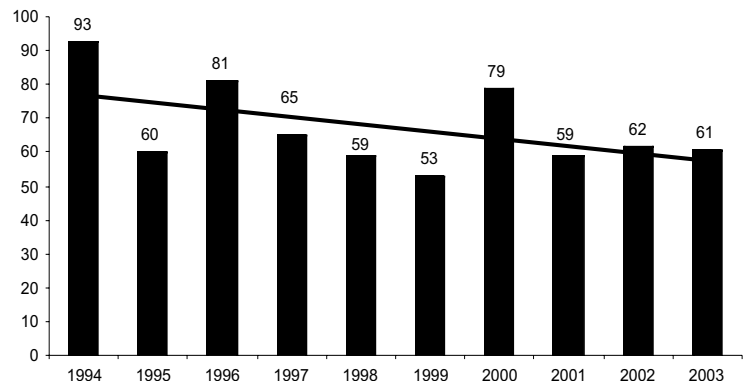
Structure arson fell 22% and motor vehicle arson fell 30% from 2002 to 2003. Since 1985, motor vehicle arson has fallen 95%. For statistical purposes, a fire is considered arson when the cause is listed as intentional & age is not a factor or the person involved was over 18. This definition excludes many "suspicious" and juvenile-set fires that were captured in MFIRS v4 prior to 2001, the first year of the revised Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS v5).

# MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DEATHS IN 2003

**Civilian Fire Deaths**

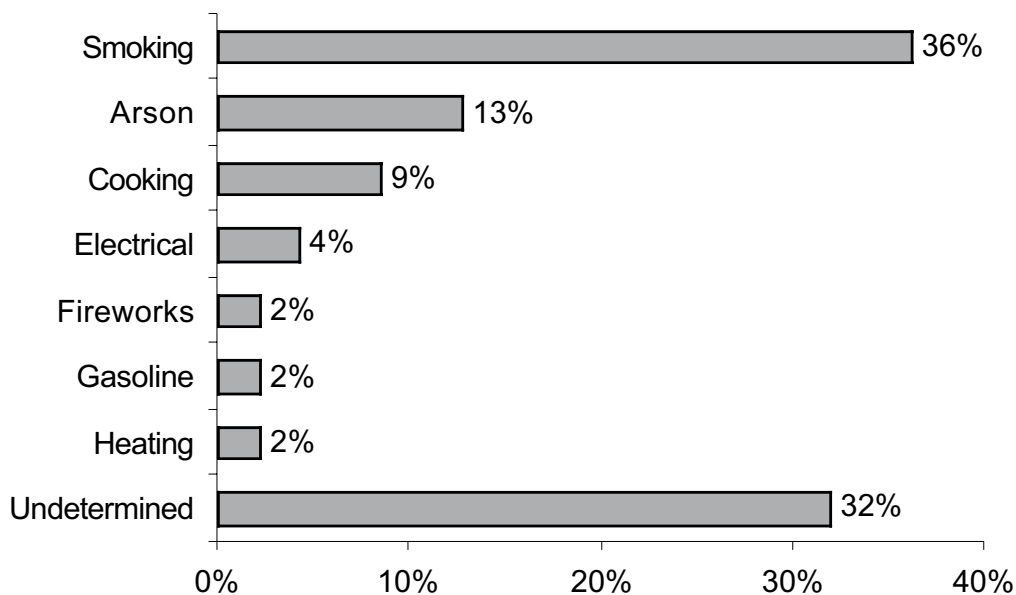


**Fire Deaths by Year**



- 57 fatal fires killed 61 civilians - 36 men, 21 women and 4 children. One firefighter died in a fire in 2003.
- 1 in 3.5 fatal fire victims was an older adult (over 65).
- Fire deaths decreased 2% from the 62 deaths reported in 2002.
- 77% of the civilian fire victims died in their homes.
- Improper or unsafe use of smoking materials was the leading cause of residential structure fire deaths. Smoking caused 17, or 36%, of residential structure fire deaths.

**Causes of Residential Structure Fire Deaths**



**Test your smoke detector and plan your escape!**  
*Fire doesn't wait!*

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